

Joint Task Force-Bravo

Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras



Welcome Guide

August 2014



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT TASK FORCE - BRAVO
APO AA 34042-5000

Office of the Commander

Inbound Service Member:

Congratulations on being selected for the best assignment you can expect in your military career! Joint Task Force-Bravo (JTF-Bravo) is a one-of-a-kind unit based in a beautiful location in the host nation of Honduras. Soto Cano Air Base is a Honduran facility located in the centrally located Comayagua Valley. Since the early 1980's, the U.S. military has been granted the rights to operate out of Soto Cato as guests of the Honduran government.

JTF-Bravo is a subordinate command of U.S. Southern Command responsible for a Joint Operating Area which encompasses the seven Central American countries. The focus of the unit is oriented on enabling operations to counter transnational organized crime, build partner capacity, and respond to human assistance/disaster relief contingencies. JTF-Bravo is truly a joint organization, comprised of more than 650 U.S. military personnel and more than 650 U.S. and Honduran civilians who serve across five different units to include the 612th Air Base Squadron, Army Forces Battalion, Joint Security Forces, Medical Element, and the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment. We have a proud history of over three decades of distinguished achievements promoting regional cooperation and security.

Each and every day, our units are performing operational missions in very complex environments, interfacing with partner militaries and civil leaders. Although the operational tempo is high in this deployed environment, our Service members are allowed to take full advantage of opportunities to travel and sample the culture in Central America on their free time. JTF-Bravo has much to offer the Service member who is a high-performer, motivated to work hard and enjoy the benefits of being assigned in a fascinating part of the Western Hemisphere. We look forward to integrating you as a valued member of this premier joint team as you begin the process of transitioning to this outstanding duty location.

I invite you to explore this Welcome Guide as you make preparations for your new assignment at Soto Cano AB. Like any overseas deployment, there are many details you will have to pay attention to in order to have a smooth transition. This Guide contains expansive information about base facilities, the unit you may be assigned to, and a full history of JTF-Bravo. It should stimulate questions you can raise with your assigned sponsor.

Again, you should be excited about the opportunity to serve on the JTF-Bravo team. We look forward to your safe arrival and we will be ready to properly integrate you here at our outstanding facilities. You will have a very unique opportunity to improve your professional, spiritual, and fitness posture. We'll see you soon! "Progress Through Unity."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk C. Dorr", is written over a horizontal line.

Kirk C. Dorr
Colonel, USA
Commanding



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Section I

Requirements in preparation for arrival in Honduras

There are a few items that will need to be taken care of before arriving in Honduras.

Passport & Clearances

An official no-fee passport is required to enter Honduras. Permanent change of station and temporary duty personnel of 30 days or more are required to obtain an official no-fee passport.

Personnel traveling to Honduras in a TDY status for 29 days or less may enter the country with a valid identification card and travel orders in accordance with the Foreign Clearance Guide (<https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg>). All personnel are encouraged to initiate a passport request upon assignment notification. Additionally, all personnel need to obtain Theater and Country Clearances through the Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System (APACS) (<https://apacs.dtic.mil>) prior to arrival (see SOUTHCOM and Service-specific Reporting Instructions for additional information).

Immunizations

The following immunizations must be valid for the duration of assignment: Hepatitis A (two shot series with the second shot six months after the first), Hepatitis B (required for medical personnel, recommended for non-medical), Yellow Fever, Tetanus/Diphtheria, Typhoid, Influenza, Polio, and MMR. Negative HIV results must be recorded within six months of assignment as well as recorded results of the Purified Protein Derivative test (PPD) for Tuberculosis.

All personnel must take anti-malaria medications while at Soto Cano Air Base. TDY personnel should arrive with sufficient supply to cover their entire length of stay plus an additional 30 days. PCS personnel should arrive with at least a 30-day supply of anti-malarial medication. Personnel arriving without sufficient anti malaria medication will be enrolled in the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy to obtain continuing medication and pick up monthly refills from the pharmacy. Start anti malaria medications two weeks prior to arrival and continue while in country and for four weeks following redeployment.

The pharmacy has limited supply capacity. Any personnel taking daily medications for chronic conditions will need to bring sufficient quantity for their tour in Honduras. Personnel that do not bring sufficient chronic medications must enroll in the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy and will receive their medications through the mail.



Administrative Requirements

- Passport
- Theater and Country Clearance (APACS)
- Power of Attorney and will
- Immunization Record
- Government Travel Card
- Medical and Dental Records
- SGLI Option Form
- Record of Emergency Data
- ID card (CAC)
- ID tags (dog tags) 2 sets
- 10 copies of Orders
- Copy of Last Performance Evaluation
- Weapons Qualification Scorecard
- Physical Fitness Test Scorecard
- Valid Driver's License
- Copy of Defensive Driving Certificate (under 25)
- Computer User Security Course Certificate
- DTS Account
- Human Rights Certificate
- Anti-terrorism Level 1 Certificate
- SERE 100
- Isolated Personnel Report (ISOPREP)

Army personnel

- ORB/ERB
- Certificate of Clearance (DA Form 873)

Air Force personnel

- OJT Records (E-6 and below)
- Weight Management Case File
- Family Support Record/Care Plan (dual military)
- Record Review RIP

Medical Element personnel

- CPR/BCLS/ACLS/EMT Certification
- RN or LPN License
- Professional Reference Materials

MEDEL Personnel

Doctors, dentists, physician assistants and nurse anesthetists need to fax a copy of their transfer brief, delineation of privileges, current license, MD diploma and any special diplomas to the Medical Element credentials section at DSN 449-4376 no later than 60 days prior to arrival. The Honduran Ministry of Health requires these documents to grant provider privileges. If you have questions, contact DSN 449-4165.

Required Equipment

- NWU/ABU/ACU/A2CU (3x)
 - Patrol cap
 - Uniform T-shirts
 - Boot socks
 - Underwear
 - Boots- 2 pair
 - Class A/B with rank (PCS)
 - Class B with rank (TDY)
 - Mess Dress (CDRs/DIRs)
 - Physical training uniform
 - Civilian clothes
 - Running shoes
 - Personal hygiene items
 - Shaving kit
 - Bath towels
 - Shower shoes
 - Wash cloths
 - Watch/alarm clock
- * Some of these items can be purchased at BX/PX on base.*



JTF-Bravo is a U.S. Southern Command task force stationed at Soto Cano Air Base. Its' primary mission is to execute and support joint, combined and interagency operations and exercises in Central America to promote regional cooperation and security.

Contact Information

Phone

The Honduras Country Code is 504. If calling from the United States commercial dial 011 504 2-713-5123. After connecting to the base operator, ask for the extension number or give the operator the person's last name. You can dial direct via DSN at 449-XXXX.

World Wide Web

Access the JTF-Bravo website at www.jtfb.southcom.mil for additional command information on JTF-Bravo. The website also contains useful command information and policies, as well as information for family members. Visit Joint Task Force-Bravo's Facebook page and follow us on Twitter for the latest and greatest information about Soto Cano Air Base.

Directorate:

Command Group
 J1- Personnel and Manpower
 J2- Intelligence
 J3- Operations
 J4- Logistics
 J6- Communications
 J8- Budget/Contracting
 J9- Civil Military Operations
 S1- JEB/1-228th
 Joint Security Forces
 612th ABS MSF
 ASA Headquarters
 ASA, Community Relations

DSN: 449-XXXX

x4106
 x4114
 x4120
 x4413
 x5076
 x6318
 x4769
 x4151
 x4280/6471
 x4170
 x6717
 x4970
 x5009

Section II

Arrival in Honduras: Must Know Information

Travel & Excess Baggage

All personnel must travel to Honduras by U.S. commercial aircraft into Tegucigalpa, the capital city of Honduras. Service members must check their orders for authorized bag and weight limitations; there may be job-specific exceptions.

Travel Uniform

Service members traveling on orders **MUST** wear appropriate civilian clothing. Ensure it is neat, clean, warm enough for in-flight operations, and appropriate for the mode of travel and destination. Examples of inappropriate clothing include: ripped, torn, frayed, or patched clothing, tank tops, extremely short shorts/skirts, undergarments worn as outer garments, bathing suits, and any garments which are revealing or contain obscene, profane, or lewd words or drawings.

Tegucigalpa Airport

Upon arrival into Tegucigalpa airport, personnel will disembark the aircraft and walk into the immigration area. JTF-B personnel will meet you at the bottom of the stairs prior to immigration. Passports will be checked and personnel will be stamped into the country.

Once personal bags are secured, personnel will proceed to the diplomatic desk to show their passport and orders for a quick customs clearance. Personnel will then proceed to the baggage collection area. Depending on how long immigration takes, the service members' bags may have already been removed from the baggage carousel.

Upon exiting the airport's main entrance, turn right and walk down past the taxis. A blue/gray bus is usually parked along the road at the bottom of the hill in the shade for Soto Cano Air Base. A sign in the windshield will indicate it is the shuttle to Soto Cano Air Base.

If a Honduran local assists you with carrying bags, their tip should be in U.S. dollars. Carrying small bills is recommended.



Soto Cano Air Base is located in the Comayagua Valley, the largest valley in central Honduras.

The ride to Soto Cano is one-and-a-half hours. The daily shuttle bus departs from the Tegucigalpa airport between **noon and 2 p.m.** or after the last arrival. If you are not met and are unable to find the driver at the airport, call the **Soto Cano operator at 2713-5123** and ask for the Joint Operations Center (JOC) at extension 4149.

Tegucigalpa Safe House

Personnel who don't make the shuttle bus connection will stay overnight at the Safe House in Tegucigalpa which is run by JTF-Bravo's Embassy Liaison Office.

It is located at Colonia Ruben Dario Turcios, Calle Froylan, Casa #2144. The LNO team can be contacted during duty hours at the **U.S. Embassy at DSN 449-4493** or commercial **2-238-5114**, extension **4812/3812**. After duty hours the LNO OIC can be reached at 9830-5185 and the LNO NCO can be reached at 9830-5186.

The Safe House is not a hotel. It is the residence of the JTF-Bravo Liaison Office NCO in Tegucigalpa. It is also used to provide authorized individuals a clean and secure facility to remain overnight in Tegucigalpa while

in the performance of official duties.

Individuals visiting the White House are guests of the JTF-Bravo commander and as such, will conduct themselves in a manner conducive to good order and discipline.

Service members will follow the guidelines established in JTF-Bravo policy memorandums, leave and pass policy, curfew systems and uniform. No guests are authorized unless cleared by the LNO and JTF-Bravo's command sergeant major.

Individuals are responsible for arranging their own transportation and meals. This includes travel to and from the airport.

Note: Reservations for the White House must be sent via fax or e-mail. Only in emergency situations will phone reservations be accepted.

Optional Equipment

- Blanket/Sheet set
- Camera
- Personal computer/laptop
- DVDs/CDs
- Personal lock(s)
- Sport clothes/equipment
- Stereo/Ipod
- Swimming suit

Must Know Information, continued...



In-processing

Service members and DoD civilians will need their military/DoD ID card to get onto Soto Cano Air Base. A unit sponsor will meet you upon arrival and escort you to your quarters.

In-processing activities are mandatory and will not be superseded for any reason other than a crisis declared by the JTF-Bravo commander. All personnel, regardless of rank, are required to attend the JTF-Bravo newcomer's brief.

Unaccompanied baggage & household goods

Incoming personnel who PCS with personal property shipments need to in-process through the Joint Personnel Property Shipping Office (JPPSO). Personnel must provide their name, building number and phone number as well as a copy of their orders.

This information is needed to contact members when their shipment arrives. Each person's name will be posted at the JPPSO office once they have in-processed and it will indicate the amount of boxes (or crates), required delivery date and arrival date of shipment.

JPPSO personnel will contact members once their shipment arrives to arrange for delivery. Deliveries are usually scheduled for Fridays only. A JPPSO representative will be present during delivery in case questions arise. If loss or damage occurs to a shipment, members may file a claim with the legal office within 70 days of receipt of shipment. You will need all shipping documentation as well as a DD Form 1840.

Prohibited Items

The purchase, possession, carrying or concealment of privately-owned firearms is prohibited. The concealment of firearms and ammunition by U.S. military and DoD civilian personnel in the Republic of Honduras is forbidden unless authorized by the JTF-Bravo commander, DoD regulation(s), applicable service regulation(s), or other federal agency regulation(s).

Service members are not authorized to ship privately-owned weapons or ammunition to Honduras, regardless of what their orders may say.

Additionally, the possession or use of other weapons such as pellet guns, throwing stars, throwing darts, bows/cross bows, nun-chucks, blow guns, brass knuckles, etc., is prohibited. If shipped to Soto Cano Air Base, these items and similar items, must be turned into the individual's unit Arms Room for storage. Knives with blades longer than five inches will not be carried (openly or concealed) on/off Soto Cano Air Base.

Privately-owned vehicles are not allowed for U.S. service members. Additionally, Soto Cano Air Base is not physically-equipped for privately-owned vehicle repair or storage facilities, impound lots or inspection facilities. Driving a rental vehicle is not authorized without direct approval from the JTF-Bravo commander.

This policy applies to military personnel assigned or attached to JTF-Bravo and those performing duties with or under the command/administrative control of the JTF-Bravo commander.

Finally, service members and DoD civilians are not authorized to bring or possess pets while assigned to Soto Cano Air Base.



Weapons, pets and privately-owned vehicles, or POVs, are not authorized for service members at Soto Cano Air Base.

Section III

Honduras, U.S. conducting missions since 1965

History

U.S. and Honduran forces conducted combined training exercises as early as 1965. In 1983, the Honduran government requested an increase in the size and number of those exercises.

Joint Task Force-Bravo was established in August 1984 to exercise command and control of U.S. forces and exercises in the Republic of Honduras. It is a subordinate command of the U.S. Southern Command.

Before being designated JTF-Bravo in 1984, this task force was known as JTF-11 and then as JTF-Alpha. A historical timeline of the base follows:

1982 — Palmerola Air Base constructed

1983 — JTF-11 established and later re-designated as JTF - Alpha

1984 — JTF-Alpha re-designated as JTF-Bravo with added mission to deter Nicaraguan aggression (2,000+ personnel)



1992-1994 — Transitional period (1,130 personnel) — Bilateral humanitarian and civil assistance operations

1995 — Downsizing/ Reorganization (710 personnel)
1996 — Revised OPOD Central Champs (499 personnel)

1997 — Commander in Chief's Theater Engagement plan issued, calling for Soto Cano to serve as strategic gateway to the theater

1999 — 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment assigned as a tenant unit from Panama

2000 — 612th Air Base Squadron activation

2002 — JTF-Bravo's mission

revised to include joint and interagency operations

2007—JTF-Bravo dispatched medical team to Peru in response to severe earthquake; team arrived 20-hours after notification

2010 — JTF-Bravo supported Operation Unified Response (Haiti); showcasing its readiness



Costa Rican firefighters extinguish a fire in a mock helicopter with pointers from a 612th Air Base Squadron firefighter during CENTAM SMOKE (a four-day training exercise that involves firefighters from Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador) at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras.



U. S. Army Lt. Col. Mauri Thomas performs a tooth extraction on a Honduran child during a Medical Readiness Training Exercise (MEDRETE) May 8. The MEDRETE was conducted by Joint Task Force-Bravo's Medical Element, with support from the JTF-Bravo Joint Security Forces and Army Forces Battalion, in partnership with the Honduran Ministry of Health and the Honduran military.

Mission

Joint Task Force - Bravo supports U.S. Southern Command

Joint Task Force - Bravo Mission

JTF-Bravo, as guests of our Honduran host nation partners and the senior representative for US-SOUTHCOM at Soto Cano Air Base, conducts and supports joint operations, actions, and activities throughout the joint operations area maintaining a forward presence in order to enhance regional security, stability, and cooperation.

Joint Task Force- Bravo Supports

JTF-Bravo supports U.S. interests in Central America through:

- Conducting operations and activities to support law enforcement agencies in Central America.



- Developing cooperative security arrangement and confidence building measures between neighbors that contribute to reduced regional tensions.
- Meeting and coordinating with Ambassadors, Country Teams, Military Group Commanders, Senior Defense Officials and Defense Attachés.
- Supporting partner nations in C-TOC operations.
- Exercising combined forces; JTF-Bravo normally supports three to five large exercises annually that are directed by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Joint Task Force-Bravo Vision

A premier joint organization committed to being expeditionary (CENTAM), a reliable partner, and promoting enduring regional security.



Above: Service members from Soto Cano AB deliver supplies and medical aid to a remote village in El Salvador. Medical Readiness Training Exercises (MEDRETE) and Medical Civic Action Programs allow the servicemembers of JTF-Bravo to train in their respective specialties while assisting host nation governments with delivering humanitarian aid to communities in need.

Right: UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters assigned to Joint Task Force-Bravo's 1-228th Aviation Regiment provides assistance when transporting patients via MEDEVAC.



Mission

Major Subordinate Commands make up JTF- Bravo

Joint Staff (J-Staff)

The staff provides command and control, staff assistance, operational, logistical and administrative support for forces deployed in the geographic area in support of U.S. Southern Command directed operations.

Army Forces (ARFOR)

The battalion consists of a headquarters and support company and staff. The HSC conducts water purification, fueling and ammunition operations, while the rigger section provides support for air delivery. The battalion is authorized 39 soldiers, which includes permanent change of station positions, temporary duty on a 179-day rotation and individual augmentees.

The battalion's mission is execute command and control and sustainment operations for JTF-Bravo within Central America enabling C-TOC, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and building partnership capacity.

1st Battalion 228th Aviation Regiment

The 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment is a tenant unit and falls under U.S. Army South, located at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for resourcing.

The unit is a composite battalion with "Talons" (UH-60 Blackhawks), "Sugarbears" (CH-47 Chinooks), medical evacuation detachment "Witchdoctors" (HH-60s) and "Phantoms" (HHC).



U.S. Air Force Air Traffic Controllers assigned to the 612th Air Base Squadron, Joint Task Force-Bravo, work at the Ground Control Approach (GCA) facility, Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras.



Joint Task Force-Bravo servicemembers unload humanitarian aid and supplies from a U.S. Armed Forces aircraft bound for Honduran citizens in need.

Their mission is to conduct general support aviation operations in support of JTF-Bravo. The battalion is capable of deploying and sustaining operations throughout the theater. Typical missions conducted by the battalion include: C-TOC, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, air movement of people, equipment and supplies, aeromedical evacuation, and limited search and rescue.

The command structure of the battalion is capable of exercising command and control for the U.S. Army South commander of army aviation assets deployed to the theater. In addition to the operational missions, the battalion participates in selected special events and VIP support missions.

Joint Security Forces

The Joint Security Forces consists of multi-service personnel from the Air Force Security Forces, Army Military Police forces, and the Navy Master at Arms each serving various tour lengths within the unit.

The JSF works together with Honduran security forces to conduct installation security, force protection, and provide security support for personnel recovery, search and rescue, C-TOC, disaster response, noncombatant evacuation order, and humanitarian/civic assistance in support of JTF-Bravo operations and U.S. Southern Command operations throughout Central America.

612th Air Base Squadron

The 612th Air Base Squadron is comprised of approximately 140 personnel who are assigned for a year-long, unaccompanied tour.

Their mission is to provide a day and night all-weather, C-5-capable airfield, base operations support, air traffic control, weather, crash and fire rescue, logistics and base civil engineers to support theater-wide U.S. Southern Command operations.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Hector Caraballo, Joint Task Force-Bravo Joint Security Forces Squadron provides security during a medical evacuation of a simulated injured aircrew member during a personnel and downed aircraft recovery exercise in Honduras.

Medical Element (MEDEL)

The Medical Element consists of U.S. Soldiers and Airmen along with Honduran professionals working together to provide a wide range of health care to U.S. service members and support to the people of Central America. MEDEL provides the following services at its clinic: dental, pharmacy, patient administration, laboratory, veterinarian care for military working dogs, preventive medicine, radiology, emergency medical care, surgery, aviation medicine and physical therapy. It also consists of a medical operations cell, medical logistics section and personnel administration section. MEDEL operates a 24-hour clinic, offers appointments for routine visits, and facilitates TRICARE referrals to Tegucigalpa for services that are not provided on base. All service lines are on-call 24 hour a day, 365 days a year.

MEDEL's mission is to provide health service support to U.S. forces deployed in Central America, provide humanitarian and civic assistance as requested, and develop partnerships with other Central American countries through Medical Readiness and Training Exercises (MEDRETEs) and opportunities to help build partner nation capabilities. The front desk phone number is (011) 504-2713-5123 Ext. 4190 if you have any questions or need to make an appointment.



Army Maj. Charles Boggs, MST surgeon and Honduran Dr. Carolina Velez, third year surgery resident, perform surgery on a patient during a Surgical Medical Readiness Training exercise at Hospital Escuela in Tegucigalpa, April 2013.



Nurses, doctors and medical technicians all play a part in ensuring both service members and community members receive care.



A veterinary technician from MEDEL conducts check-ups and rabies shots for pets of community members during a MEDRETE.



MEDEL pharmacists set up secure, make-shift pharmacies during exercise and humanitarian assistance missions.

Army Support Activity services



Living quarters for servicemembers

Furnished government quarters are provided for all personnel. Lodging consists of quarters, metal dorms and quads. Quarters are temporary wooden buildings of tropical design; a full quarter is 16-feet by 32-feet with screened windows and a tin roof with air conditioners and ceiling fans for cooling.

Quarters are available for all personnel based on rank, availability, and tour length. Communal latrines, shower facilities and laundry rooms are centrally located to quarters and metal dorm living areas. Quarters and some metal dorms do not have indoor plumbing or running water, but quads do.

All quarters contain 110-volt electricity, cable television, VCR or DVD, refrigerator, microwave and furniture. Service members may obtain local internet service for personal computers; however, service of personal computers at government expense is not authorized.

Dayrooms with cooking facilities, volleyball courts, barbecues and covered picnic areas are also located throughout the base.



Quads, with indoor plumbing, are available for select personnel based on rank and availability. Quads come in two sizes: 646 square feet and 491.25 square feet.



Many servicemembers live in either wooden quarters or metal dorms. Each unit has furniture, cable television, refrigerator and microwave.

The Dining Facility



The dining facility offers a great variety of foods on both the main line and the short order line. The menus include many ethnic meals as well as taco, potato and pasta bars on different days.

Military personnel, DoD civilians, government contractors, official and unofficial guests and approved personnel are authorized to use the dining facility. PCS personnel will pay the standard meal rate of \$4.65. BAS will not be withdrawn. TDY personnel do not pay for meals in the dining facility. TDY personnel will have TDY stamped on their bilingual ID card during in-processing. The ID will then serve as a meal card.

The base dining facility offers a rotating menu, including special ethnic food and holiday meals, the dining facility offers a wide variety of food choices.

The meal hours and prices are:

Monday –Friday	PCS	Other
Breakfast 0630 - 0900	\$ 2.15	\$ 2.55
Lunch 1130 - 1330	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.65
Dinner 1700 - 1830	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.65
Weekends and Holidays		
Breakfast 0630 - 0930		
Lunch 1130 - 1330		
Dinner 1700 - 1930		



Education Services

The Education Center is committed to improving the readiness of all Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps personnel by planning and implementing quality educational programs and services.

The education center offers a full range of services to support both personal and professional development. Services include: distance learning, counseling, education financial programs, testing, language proficiency, and computer lab facilities. Additionally, the education center offers English as a Second Language, Rosetta Stone, virtual study and a Head Start Spanish course which allows personnel to fully immerse themselves into the Honduran culture. Personnel completing the 40-hour Spanish course receive a certificate of training.



Military leave entitlements, transportation services

Military leave entitlements

The following guidelines will be used for leave entitlements based on the rate of 2.5 days for each full month of active service.

Leave may not be used to shorten a tour (i.e., during the last month of a tour).

Leave is authorized for Army and PCS personnel.

Personnel assigned for:

179 days are authorized one-leave period of up to 15 days (Army personnel only)

365 days are authorized two leave periods of up to 15 days or one 30-day leave period if mission requirements permit and request is approved.

Shuttle Bus Service

Shuttle bus service is provided to both Comayagua and Tegucigalpa. The shuttle may be used by U.S. military and DoD civilian personnel.

Dependents of U.S. military and DoD civilian personnel may ride the shuttle bus on a space-available basis. Space permitting, other individuals possessing Soto Cano base passes (granted by the JTF-Bravo commander or Honduran base commander) may also use the shuttle bus service.

Passengers may not interfere with the driver or routes by requesting to deviate from designated stops or routes.

Comayagua Shuttle Bus

The Base Operations Service Support (BOSS) shuttle bus provides a free bus service between Soto Cano Air Base and Comayagua from 5 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following morning.

BOSS contract employees must be given priority consideration between 5:30 to 8:30 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Tegucigalpa Shuttle Bus

The Tegucigalpa shuttle bus provides free weekend and holiday service between Soto Cano Air Base and Tegucigalpa malls and hotels.

Soto Cano AB provides new choices of activities



Above: Soto Cano Air Base also features a below ground Olympic size pool with two grilling areas next to racket ball, basketball, tennis courts

Below: Soto Cano Air Base gym.



Below—A service member shoots pool at the recreation center. The facility includes a private library area, pool tables, indoor bathrooms, free Wi-fi, various free outdoor rental equipment and more.





The Morale, Welfare and Recreation office runs several intramural sports programs throughout the year. Soccer in the spring, softball in the summer and football in the fall are the most popular of the sports.

MWR: Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation

The MWR office provides Service members with a wide variety of recreational activities and exotic trips to experience many aspects of Central American culture.

MWR offers terrific programs at hard to beat prices; however, most activities are free and transportation is provided.

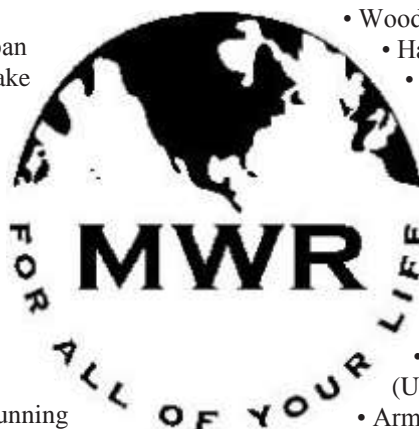
For those activities and travel arrangements where there are costs, MWR continually strives to offer the highest quality at the least cost to customers.



Through the MWR, you can travel around Honduras, throughout Central America or enjoy the various activities offered at Soto Cano Air Base by the Armed Forces Entertainment.

Programs offered

- Recreation center and library
- Lempira Tours and Travel (Copan ruins, Roatan, Le Ceiba, Utila, Lake Yajoa, other Central American countries)
- Basic, advanced and rescue scuba certification
- Ski boats and skis, pontoon boats and fishing equipment available at Lake Yojoa Marina
- Basketball, racquetball and tennis courts
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Sports fields and quarter-mile running track



- Wood shop
- Hammock shop
- Fitness center
- Sports equipment, 30 bicycles, ice chests and other equipment available for sign out
- Theater
- Free golf passes
- Armed Forces Radio
- Cable television
- United Services Organizations (USO) celebrity appearances
- Armed Forces Entertainment



Soto Cano Friendship Chapel

Building N-65; DSN 449-6845



Mission:

The JTF-Bravo Chapel's mission is to serve as a visible reminder of the Holy, provide for the free exercise of religion, implement the JTF-Bravo commander's vision through the utilization of our core competencies, and conduct humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Other opportunities:

- 100% confidential and non-reportable counseling
- Spiritual Wellness (no matter what your faith group)
- Alcohol-free programs
- Chapel Hikes (The JTF-Bravo chaplain serves as the POC for monthly humanitarian outreaches to the villages around Soto Cano.)

Weekly opportunities:

Sunday

0900 - Catholic Confession
0915 - Catholic Mass
1000 - Ecumenical Breakfast
1100 - Protestant Worship Service
1600 - Latter Day Saints Service
1700 - Bible Study and Dinner

Tuesday

1200 - Bible Study and Lunch

Wednesday

1900 - Protestant Bible Study
1900 - Catholic Fellowship

Thursday

1900 - Protestant Band Rehearsal

Friday

1800 - Game/Movie Night

Saturday

1830 - Dinner and a Movie



A Joint Task Force-Bravo servicemember delivers food and supplies to a Honduran woman during a Chapel Hike.



Laundry Services

ASA also operates an on-base laundry service, which includes uniform pressing, dry cleaning and alternations. The Laundry Shop is located in building K 80.

Weekly Schedule

Monday to Thursday 0730 - 1700

Friday 0830 - 1700



Base/Post Exchange services

Soto Cano Air Base has a small Army & Air Force Exchange Service facility, food court, barber and beauty shop and coffee shop.

The BX/PX offers DVD and Blu-Ray rentals, as well as food and drinks, electronics, cleaning supplies, souvenirs and clothes.

Servicemembers should bring sufficient quantities of uniform items as the BX/PX supply is limited. Active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel, and U.S. civilians meeting special employment criteria with the U.S. government are authorized AAFES complex privileges.

Dependent family members who are visiting Soto Cano or are residing in the local area are authorized privileges as well. Dependent family members of personnel assigned or attached to the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Military Group in Tegucigalpa are authorized access upon presentation of their Embassy green identification badge and DD Form 1173 or White Commissary Card (indicating approved tax-exempt status).

Military personnel and DoD civilians are authorized to use the U.S. Embassy exchange. Individuals must present a military identification card to the guard outside the commissary as well as to the cashier. The BX/PX accepts U.S. currency, credit cards and debit cards.

Currency

U.S. dollars are used in most on-base facilities. Although dollars may be accepted at many off-base establishments in the local area, Honduran Lempira is preferred.

Base personnel may exchange dollars for lempira at several locations: the finance office, base exchange or U.S. Embassy located in Tegucigalpa.

Soto Cano Air Base has ATMs serviced by the PLUS System, Armed Forces Financial Network, American Express Company, Discover and other financial organizations. Honduran ATMs are also available to obtain lempira.

All personnel are advised to bring a sufficient quantity of checks.

Eagle Cash Card

In accordance with the Department of the Army's effort to reduce U.S. currency in foreign deployments, the Eagle Cash Stored Value Card system is in use at Soto Cano Air Base, with cards issued by the Finance Office.

Value is loaded onto the card in exchange for cash or check at the finance office. The card is attached directly to an individual's checking account and can be reloaded at one of several automated kiosks on base.

Use of the Eagle Cash Card is a 100 percent safe way to purchase items at all DoD based vendors on base.



The base/post exchange here carries many of the same items that a stateside BX/PX carries.

Section IV

Basic guidelines for life at Soto Cano Air Base

Policy guidelines

- Service regulations governing standards of uniform wear and appearance will be followed.
- JTF-Bravo newcomers should become familiar with Command Policy Letters upon arrival.
- Directive 1 is the JTF-Bravo commander's policy that outlines the minimum expectation for individual conduct and behavior while at Soto Cano Air Base. Compliance with Directive 1 is mandatory.

Uniform wear

- The service fatigue (ABU/BDU/ ACU/NWU/ A2CU) is the duty uniform.
- PCS personnel will bring the service dress uniform. TDY personnel will bring the Class B uniform. MSC Commanders and Directors should bring mess dress uniforms for special occasions.
- Aviators or service members whose duties involve flight operations can wear flight suits.

Civilian clothing

- Clothing will reflect good taste and decency.
- Attire with sexual or demeaning messages, logos or drawings will not be worn.
- Service members will not wear uniforms off base unless conducting official duty.
- Appearance must create a favorable impression.
- Men must wear shirts with sleeves off base, but collared shirts are not required.
- Wear of headgear for sun protection is recommended; however, rag-type covers and bandanas will not be worn.
- Wear civilian clothing while traveling on civilian air in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility.

General guidelines

- Dog tags must be worn in uniform or while flying.
- Men will not wear earrings or any other body piercing jewelry in Honduras. Earrings are the only type of body piercing allowed for women in Honduras.



A service member gets his haircut at the AAFES barber shop.

Pay & Allowances

Military will receive hardship duty pay for location in the amount of \$150 per month. All TDY personnel must be in country for at least 30 days prior to receipt.

PCS personnel will also receive a bi-monthly cost of living allowance. (COLA rates vary depending on rank, number of dependents, etc.)

All PCS personnel start payment on arrival date. Military members with dependants will receive family separation allowance in the amount of \$250 per month.

All personnel should have direct deposit and make necessary allotments required for dependent care and financial obligations prior to arrival.

The Government Travel Card is the medium for travel advances. Members should be issued a GTC prior to departure.

Infrequent travelers (two TDYs or less per year) are not required to have a GTC. The JTF-B Resource Manager, J-8, will reactivate/transfer the GTC upon arrival at Soto Cano Air Base.

The 612th ABS will reactivate/transfer GTC for Air Force personnel.

Finance

The finance office provides check cashing, foreign currency exchange, and military pay and travel services.

The Finance Office will cash personal checks up to \$250, and accept all U.S. Treasury Checks, money orders, and travelers check. However, third party checks cannot be cashed at the JTF-Bravo Finance Office.





Mail Service

U.S. Postal Services on Soto Cano Air Base include stamps, money orders and package mailing. U.S. currency, credit & debit cards, and the Eagle Cash Card are accepted for payment. Personnel should have correct change when paying in cash. In accordance with DoD 4525.6, active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel, DoD civilian personnel and contractors in support of U.S. Armed Forces and DoD activities are authorized APO privileges while assigned to Soto Cano Air Base.

- PCS personnel will be issued an APO Box. TDY personnel will be required to use general delivery.

- Retired U.S. military personnel and their families are authorized APO privileges, but are limited to sending and receiving items weighing less than 16 ounces. Organizations or persons in the U.S. cannot send anything intended for anyone other than the authorized APO box owner.

Mailing address:

Name
PSC 42, Box #
APO AA 34042

-or-

Name
PSC 42
General Delivery
APO AA 34042

Legal office services

Power of attorneys, wills, legal classes, translations, notary, tax assistance; and claims for lost or damaged personal property.

Service members are advised to complete powers of attorneys and settle legal matters prior to arrival.

Morale calls

Each service member assigned or attached to JTF-Bravo is permitted 270 minutes of Morale DSN calls per week. DSN call time is non-transferable from one week to the next and is non-transferable from one person to another. Individual calls cannot last more than 30 minutes each. On weekends and holidays the calls cannot last more than 60 minutes per call, per day.

Basic Do's and Don'ts in Honduras

The Do's

- Greet and shake hands with everyone when introduced or meeting someone.
- Use official titles and last name unless told otherwise.
- Respect the elderly.
- Compliment the host/hostess.
- Learn some Spanish.
- Purchase items on the economy with local currency.
- Respect host nation laws, regulations, customs and traditions.
- Stay alert while traveling, remain security conscious.
- Respect women, no "cat calls."
- Wear appropriate clothing off duty.
- Be good wingmen, battle buddies and shipmates.
- Pay the posted price for taxi fares or agree on a price before getting into a taxi.
- Review "Off-Limits" areas and establishments.

The Don'ts

- Beckon anyone with the index finger.
- Drink tap water on or off-base.
- Ridicule host nation customs, traditions, or standard of living.
- Give rides to strangers.
- Display arrogance toward or intimidate the civilian populace.
- Make unauthorized transfers of U.S. currency or merchandise.
- Visit areas or establishments deemed "Off-Limits"

Section V

Honduras: Background Information

Honduras

- Central American country bordering the Caribbean Sea, between Guatemala and Nicaragua, and bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between El Salvador and Nicaragua.
- Total area: 112,090 sq. mi.



Flag

- Three equal horizontal bands of blue (top and bottom) and white (middle) with five blue five-pointed stars arranged in an "X" pattern centered in the white band. The stars represent the members of the former Federal Republic of Central America: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.



The blue bands symbolize the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

People

- Population: 8.5 (June 2014 est.)
- Life expectancy at birth: 70.9 yrs. old
- Ethnic Divisions: Mestizo (mixed Indian and European), Amerindian, Black and White.

Religions

- Roman Catholic (97%), Protestant (3%)

Languages

- Spanish (official), Amerindian dialects, English widely spoken in business

- Comparative area: Slightly larger than Tennessee.

Climate

- Sub-tropical in low lands, temperate in mountains
- Rainy Season (May - Oct.); minimum to maximum temperature ranges from 60 to 90 degrees
- Dry Season (Nov.- Apr.); minimum to maximum temperature ranges from 55 to 95 degrees

Government

- Type: Democratic Constitutional Republic
- Capital: Tegucigalpa (Pop. 1 million)
- Administrative Divisions: 18 departments
- Independence: Sep. 15, 1821 (from Spain)
- Constitution: Jan. 11, 1982; effective Jan. 20, 1982

Economy

- Honduras is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere.
- Basic problems facing the economy include rapid population growth, high unemployment and a lack of basic services. Nearly half of Honduras' economic activity is directly tied to the U.S. with exports to the U.S. accounting for 40 percent of GDP.

Currency

Lempiras (HNL)

Exchange rate:

Lps. 20.53 per \$ 1.00 (Aprox.)



GDP composition, by sector

- Agriculture: 14%
- Industry: 28.2%
- Services: 57.8% (2013 est.)

Armed Forces

- Army, Navy (includes Navy infantry) and Air Force

Literacy

- Approx 85.1 percent age 15 and up



Above: A group of boys enjoy treats given to them by servicemembers during a Chapel Hike.



Above: Entrance to Taulabe Caves in Honduras.



The islands off the coast of Honduras boast the second largest natural reef in the world - second only to The Great Barrier Reef in Australia.



Section VI

Basic Spanish phrases you should know

Good day/afternoon/night.

Hello.

Goodbye.

Please.

Thank you.

You are welcome.

Yes/No.

Pleased to meet you.

Where is the bathroom/phone?

I am a member of the U.S. Armed Forces.

What is your name?

My name is...

Help, Police!

I need help, quick!

Can you help me?

Does anyone here speak English?

I want to go to the American Embassy.

How much does this Coca-Cola cost?

Thank you for your help.

How are you?

Very well, thank you.

Please speak slowly.

What time is it?

The menu, please.

What did you say?

I'm hungry.

I'm thirsty.

One soda please.

The bill please.

Another one please.

What's happening?

See you later.

See you tomorrow.

I need a taxi.

OK.

Okey-dokey.

Buenos días, Buenas tardes/noches.

Hola.

Adiós.

Por favor.

Gracias.

De nada.

Sí/No.

Mucho gusto en conocerle.

¿Dónde está el baño/el teléfono?

Yo soy miembro de las fuerzas armadas de los Estados Unidos.

¿Cómo se llama?

Me llamo/Mi nombre es...

Ayuda, policía!

Necesito ayuda, rapido.

¿Puede ayudarme?

¿Alguien aquí habla inglés?

Quiero ir a la Embajada Americana.

¿Cuánto cuesta esta Coca-Cola?

Gracias por su ayuda.

¿Como está?/ ¿Qué tal?

Muy bien, gracias.

Hable despacio, por favor.

¿Qué hora es?

El menú por favor.

¿Qué me dijo?

Tengo hambre.

Tengo sed.

Un refresco por favor.

La cuenta por favor.

Otra por favor.

¿Qué pasa?

Hasta luego/la vista.

Hasta mañana.

Necesito un taxi.

Cheque.

Cheque leque.

Note: In the dining facility, all menu items are listed in both Spanish and English.